GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:75
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2000
DEVELOPMENT OF HANDICRAFTS
P.D. ELANGOVAN;RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated by the Union Government on the schemes for development of Handicrafts and Textiles in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise.

(b) the amount spent by the State governments on such schemes during the above period, state-wise;

(c) the details of guidelines issued to the Handicrafts sector regarding the products made of Sandal wood, Rose Wood and Ivory;

(d) the total production of Sandal Wood Handicrafts made both in quantity and value for inland trade as well as export, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken for the development of handicrafts and textiles alongwith the incentives and facilities proposed for skilled and unskilled artisans and workers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.75 for answer on 27.7.2000.

(a): There is no state-wise allocation on the schemes for development handicrafts & textiles. However, based on viable proposals received from the State Government/State Corporation/Apex Societies and voluntary organisations etc. funds are released depending upon the availability of funds under various schemes.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) : No guidelines have been issued to the Handicrafts Sector regarding products made of sandalwood, rosewood and ivory. However, exports of sandalwood in any form is prohibited except finished handicrafts products and machine finished products. Ivory is banned under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.

(d): Handicrafts being an unorganised sector, no authentic data is available on the production of sandalwood handicrafts and its inland trade in the country. The export data, wood species-wise, or state-wise are not maintained. However the export figures of wooden handicrafts, including sandalwood handicrafts, during the last three years is as under:-

Sl.No.	Year	Export Figure (Rs. in crores)
1.	1997-98	221.82
2.	1998-99	286.04
3.	1999-2000	348.95(Prov.)
4.	2000-2001	59.62(Prov.)

(e): The steps taken for the development of handicrafts and textiles in the country include skill upgradation through training, design and product development, establishment of Common Facility Centres for providing value addition services, integrated handloom development through project package scheme, research and development, application of information technology, publicity and exhibitions, providing wider marketing opportunity through establishment of emporia and conducting bazars and fairs. Marketing and Service Extension Centres,Regional Design and Technical Development Centres, Weavers Service Centres, Powerloom Service Centres, Textile Research Associations, etc. have been established all over the country for providing developmental and promotional facilities in the handicrafts and textile sectors.

The Government has introduced the Technology Upgradation Funds Scheme to give the textiles industry access to timely and adequate capital at internationally comparable rates of interest for upgrading its technology and improving its competitiveness as well as long term viability. The Government has also formed a Technology Mission on Cotton which will focus on research and development for improving the quality and marketability of the cotton grown.

The Government is also providing various welfare facilities to artisans, weavers and workers, etc. through the workshed and workshed-cum-Housing Schemes, the Group Insurance Scheme, Thrift Fund Scheme for handloom weavers, textile workers rehabilitation funds scheme and pension to National Awardee craftspersons and weavers.